



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE

NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23460-5190

1991
5030

AD/E2

Serial 071

25 FEB 1992

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron Composite Twelve
To: Director, Naval Aviation History and Publications
Division, Naval Historical Center, Bldg. 159E,
RM. 503, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT FOR 1991

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) VFC-12 Command History Report

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded as requested by reference (a).

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By direction

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**FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE
TWELVE
-FIGHTING OMARS-
COMMAND HISTORY AND MISSION**

COMMANDING OFFICER
CDR Robert B. Benefield

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CDR Donald E. Auten

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
AFCM David Desmarais

History

Fighter Squadron Composite TWELVE was originally commissioned VC-12 on 06 October 1943, at NAS Sand Point, Seattle, Washington. The squadron operated F-4F "WILDCAT" fighters and TBM-1 "AVENGERS" off the west coast aboard the USS CARD (CVE-11) until 28 February 1944. VC-12 saw action against German U-Boats in 1944 and after relocating to NAS Norfolk was decommissioned 7 June 1945.

On 6 July 1948, Carrier Air Early Warning Squadron TWO was commissioned at NAS Norfolk, Virginia. The squadron was redesignated Fleet Composite Squadron TWELVE on 1 September 1948. VC-12 operated TBM-3 "AVENGERS" from most of the Atlantic Fleet carriers active at that time and saw action in Korea aboard the USS BON HOMME RICHARD. Following the Korean Conflict, VC-12 was again decommissioned on 29 September 1953.

On 1 September 1973, at NAF Detroit, Michigan, VC-12 was recommissioned as the first Reserve Fleet Composite Squadron in Naval history. VC-12 moved to its current location at NAS Oceana in 1975. In June 1988, VC-12 was redesignated VFC-12 to better reflect its adversary role.

VFC-12 was instrumental in training the East Coast Fleet/Fighter Squadrons for the Desert Shield/Desert Storm War with Iraq.

On 30 September 1991, VC-0686 (VFC-12's Augment Unit) was decommissioned.

Chain of Command

The fighting OMARS are under the administrative and operational control of Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing at NAS Dallas, TX who reports to the Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force, New Orleans, LA. Commander, Tactical Wings Atlantic through Commander Fighter Wing One at NAS Oceana, VA provides logistics support and scheduling authority.

Mission

The mission of the Fighting OMARS is to provide Fleet services and training to Regular and Reserve Aviation and Surface units in order to maintain combat readiness. Specific services include:

Air Combat Maneuvering	Air Intercept and Radar Tracking
Air to Air Tactics	CNO Special Projects
Air to Air Gunnery Exercises	Surface to Air Gunnery Exercises
Air to Air Missile Exercises	Surface to Air Missile Exercises

Flight Hour Program

VFC-12 is funded to fly 5,000 hours annually. Historically this flight time has been distributed as follows:

Air Combat and Tactics Training	<u>57%</u>
Air to Air Gunnery Training	<u>5%</u>
Air to Air Missile Training	<u>1%</u>
Surface to Air Missile Training	<u>1%</u>
Surface to Air Gunnery Training	<u>1%</u>
Air to Air Missile Training	<u>17%</u>
In House Training	<u>18%</u>

Manning

The total manpower is 44 Officers, 17 Chief Petty Officers and 192 Enlisted personnel. This includes 133 full-time Training and Administrative (TAR) personnel and 120 Selected Reserve members.

Aircraft

VFC-12 maintains and flies a total of 13 McDonnell-Douglas A-4 series aircraft including seven A-4F "Superfox's" and six TA-4J's. TA-4J's now have the P-8 vice P-6 engine for better thrust to weight. FA-18's are tentatively slated to replace the Skyhawk by 1994.

Detachment Schedule

The "Fighting OMARS" spend a considerable amount of time at other sites in support of fleet training. Detachments include over 250 days per year at the following locations:

NAS Cecil Field, FL	NAS Miramar, CA
NAS Key West, FL	NAS New Orleans, LA
NAS Brunswick, ME	NAS Pax River, MD
Eglin AFB, FL	Cold Lake, Canada
	Roosevelt Roads, PR

Services while on detachment normally account for 3000 flight

hours, or 60% of the annual program.

Achievements and Awards

VFC-12 has logged more than 78350 hours in the A-4. These hours have been flown in the most hazardous and demanding of all peacetime aviation environments: Air Combat/Tactics Maneuvering and live fire exercises for aviation and surface units.

VFC-12 has been awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award in 1978, 1980 and 1981. In 1980, 1984, 1985 and 1988, VFC-12 was awarded the Noel Davis Trophy for outstanding squadron readiness. The OMARS received the Meritorious Unit Commendation in January 1989 for sustained superior performance.

The Fighting OMARS are testimony to the "One Navy" concept and stand ready to train and support Naval Aviation and Surface Combat Units throughout the Continental United States.